(c) what steps have been proposed to be taken to replenish the greenery of North-Eastern States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) As per State of Forest Report 1993 of Forest Survey of India, forest cover of North Eastern States has declined by 635 Sq. Km. over the assessment made in 1991 report.

(c) Government have taken the following steps to increase the forest cover of North-Eastern States :—

(i) Financial assistance is being provided to State Governments as well as Non-Governmental Organisations to carry out afforestation and protection works in the North-Eastern States.

(ii) North-Eastern council is providing financial assistance to State Governments for various developmental activities including forestry.

(iii) State Governments have been asked to protect forests and take steps for control of shifting cultivation.

(iv) Problems of North-Eastern States are discussed at different levels in the Government and appropriate remedial action taken from time to time.

Census of Tigers and Elephants in Arunachal Pradesh

4562. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the census of Tigers and Elephants has not been taken in Arunachal Pradesh for more than a decade ; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Dumping of Toxic wastes in the country

4563. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some developed countries are dumping toxic wastes in the country ;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected in the country during the last two years and the names of those countries ; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or proposed to take to check the dumping of such wastes in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) As per the information available no such cases of dumping of toxic wastes have been detected.

(c) Government of India have notified the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. According to these rules import of hazardous wastes from any country to India is not permitted for dumping and disposal. However, import of such wastes may be allowed for processing or reuse as raw materials, after examining each case on merit.

Wood-based industries in Arunachal Pradesh

4564. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of wood-based industries in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) how much quantity of wood is allocated to each such unit as quota by the State Government ;

(c) how much quantity of wood has been supplied against such quota during the last three years ;

(d) whether it is a fact that other State Governments in the North-Eastern Region have done away with the practice of allocating quota to wood-based industries ;

(e) whether the State of Arunachal Pradesh still continues with the quota system industry where as the arjoing States